

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 04897 190614Z

10 L

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 AGR-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /124 W

----- 125842

P R 190515Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4832

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI//USDAO//UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4897

BANGKOK ALSO FOR KRANKER, USAID/LAOS/BOO

DEPT FOR RAMSEY, USAID/LAOS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, US, LA

SUBJ: MILITARY RICE FOR LAOS

REF: VIENTIANE 4700

1. WE MAY NOT HAVE CONVEYED THE STILL VERY TENSE AND UNCERTAIN
STITUATION IN WHICH WE FIND OURSELVES: TWO EMBASSY COMPOUNDS
REMAIN OCCUPIED; AN INCIPIENT THREAT FROM ROYAL AIR LAO
EMPLOYEES PRECLUDES USE OF U.S. AIRCRAFT; IMPLICATIONS OF
AID CUT-OFF ARE BEGINNING TO BE FELT, AT SAME TIME AS REAL-
IZATION IS DAWNING THAT THERE MAY BE NO FUTURE AID; THERE ARE
SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGES (ACCORDING TO VOA AND BBC, LAOS HAS
ASKED FOR \$10 MILLION IN FOOD AID FROM U.S.); THE CHANGE IN
SOCIAL ORDER IS PROCEEDING WITH ATTENDANT WIDESPREAD
FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY AMONG LAO.

2. IN THIS CONTEXT, DELIVERIES OF RICE ARE NOT A TECH-
NICAL PROBLEM. WE HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES FOR JULY. TO
DELAY FURTHER, OR MORE SERIOUSLY TO CANCEL OUT, COULD
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HAVE BROAD REPERCUSSIONS: IT WOULD GIVE A PALPABLE ISSUE

TO LPF TO ATTACK US IN WHATEVER WAY THEY CHOSE, AND ON THIS
ONE THEY WOULD HAVE BROAD POPULAR SUPPORT. THE IMAGE OF AMERICAN
DOUBLE-DEALING AT A TIME WHEN LPF ARE CARRYING RESPONSIBILITY
FOR DETERIORATING SITUATION COULD SHIFT PART OF THIS
RESPONSIBILITY TO US AND WOULD CERTAINLY NOT IMPROVE
OUR CHANCES OF MAINTAINING THIS MISSION, NOR
THOSE OF INSURING THE SECURITY OF ITS PERSONNEL.
CHAPMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RICE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI04897
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750250-0285
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750738/aaaabiba.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 VIENTIANE 4700
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY RICE FOR LAOS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, US, LA
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006